

### Remarks

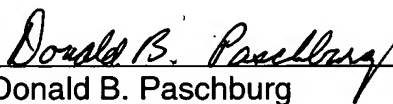
The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action dated August 25, 2006. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, Claims 1, 7-12 and 18 have been canceled; and Claims 2-5, 13-16 and 19-22 have been amended. Therefore, Claims 2-6, 13-17 and 19-23 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested, particularly in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 2, 5, 6, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22 and 23 drew objections for depending from rejected base claims, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the relevant base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, Claims 2, 5, 13, 16, 19 and 22 have been represented in independent form.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claims 2, 5, 13, 16, 19 and 22 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above. Since the remaining dependent claims each depend from one of the above claims and necessarily include each of the elements and limitations thereof, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated, as well as for reciting additional patentable subject matter. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, reconsideration of the rejections and an early and favorable allowance of this case are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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